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Conference on Disarmament

27 January 2014

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Note verbale dated 27 January 2014 from the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea addressed to the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the crucial proposals made by the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Pyongyang on 16 January 2014

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the principled proposals made by the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 16 January 2014.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would appreciate it if this proposal could be circulated to all member and observer States of the Conference on Disarmament as an official document of the Conference.

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Crucial Proposals made by the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*

Pyongyang, 16 January (Korean Central News Agency): The National Defence Commission of the DPRK made the following principled proposals to the south Korean authorities on Thursday, upon authorization of the Government, political parties and organizations of the DPRK:

It is the fourteenth year in the twenty-first century; amid the deepening bitterness the Koreans suffer from the national division.

As the times go by, the nation has suffered the ever-bigger pain of territorial division and national partition which were imposed at the hands of outsiders.

Out of the resolute determination to end this, the peerless patriot declared his iron will to bring earlier national reunification and peace and prosperity with his patriotic mind at a significant moment, when the first day of this year dawned, warming up the 3,000-ri territory and the minds of all Koreans and the people of the world.

But only the present authorities of south Korea have shown ill-boding movements from the outset of the new year, not doing away with the inveterate bad habit of escalating confrontation.

They build up public opinion to convince the people that the present stalemate in the north-south ties is due to the DPRK. They are saying this or that over the internal affairs of the other side and have become talkative about the non-existent "provocation" and "threat", not content with their dream of a sort of "emergency", deliberately straining the situation.

They are even calling for staging, from the end of February, aggressive "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle" joint military exercises, which they have waged every year under the pretext of "annual and defensive exercises" by resorting to the decade-old trite method.

The Ssangryong landing operation which is envisaged to be included in the war exercises is said to be held in the biggest scale, targeting an attack on Pyongyang.

The danger of the issue lies in that such military movements are being stealthily undertaken in south Korea and its vicinity by new naval and air forces, including huge tanks and armoured vehicles and airplane formations of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces.

Under the prevailing grave situation, the National Defense Commission of the DPRK makes the following proposals to the south Korean authorities upon authorization of the government, political parties and organizations of the DPRK:

We propose taking practical measures in hearty response to the warm call for creating an atmosphere for improving the north-south ties.

It is the invariable stand of the army and people of the DPRK to mend north-south ties and achieve national reconciliation and unity.

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So we officially propose that the south Korean authorities take the practical measure of halting all acts of provoking and slandering the other side from 30 January, a day before the lunar new year's day.

This year is a significant year, marking the tenth anniversary of the "4 June agreement" in which the north and the south agreed to stop all forms of slander and psychological warfare in the spirit of the historic 15 June joint declaration.

If the south side respects this agreement it signed, there can never be any reason whatsoever for it not to accept our proposal.

If those in power have true intent for improving the north-south ties, they should take good control of what is uttered by them and lead the media to create an atmosphere favourable for improving the north-south ties and thus make the strong wind of reconciliation and unity rage across the Korean peninsula.

Now is the time to definitely end the evil cycle of slanders, calumnies and hostilities that are harmful to all. South Korea should no longer block the voices of the fellow countrymen calling for harmony of the nation.

We propose taking the practical step of halting all hostile military acts against the other side in response to this historic call for ensuring the security and peace of the nation.

Even minor and accidental conflict can immediately lead to an all-out war on the peninsula. This is a stark reality today.

Any war on this land will help big powers to fish in troubled waters and bring unimaginable destruction to Koreans.

So, we again propose immediately and unconditionally halting all military and hostile acts targeting the fellow countrymen in collusion with outsiders.

For the present, the south Korean authorities should take the crucial political decision of cancelling "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle" joint military exercises, which they plan to stage from the end of February under the pretext of "annual and defensive drills".

If "coordination" and "cooperation" with the U.S. are so precious and valuable, they had better hold the exercises in the secluded area or in the U.S. far away from the territorial land, sea and air of the Korean peninsula. This is the stand of the DPRK.

Explicitly speaking, the DPRK will never take military acts detrimental to the nation's security and peace by introducing outsiders in the future either, as in the past.

We especially propose stopping all acts provoking the other side on the ground and in the sea and air, including five islands in the West Sea, hotspots where both sides are in acute showdown, levelling their guns at each other.

The DPRK side will show its practical action first for the realization of this proposal.

We propose taking practical measures that will be beneficial to each other to prevent a nuclear holocaust from being inflicted on this land.

The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is a goal common to the nation. This is also the invariable will of the army and people of the DPRK.

The possession of nuclear weapons and the pursuance of the line on simultaneously pushing forward economic construction and build-up of a nuclear force are a treasured sword common to the nation and the most just option for self-defence, which aims at ending the nuclear threat and blackmail against all Koreans by the U.S. and envisages the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world alike.

Our nuclear force serves as a means for deterring the U.S. from posing a nuclear threat. It will never be a means for blackmailing fellow countrymen and doing harm to them.

We courteously propose that the south side not resort to reckless acts of bringing dangerous nuclear strike means of the U.S. to south Korea and to areas around it, taking this occasion as an opportunity.

It is the stand of the DPRK to resolutely break with the double-dealing stand of tolerating the nuclear weapons of outsiders, which are harmful to fellow countrymen, while denying the nuclear weapons of fellow countrymen, which protect the nation.

These crucial proposals reflect the desire and wish of all Koreans to reject outsiders and bring earlier the independent reunification, peace and prosperity of the nation from the standpoint of By Our Nation Itself.

If these proposals are put into practice, it will be possible to settle all issues, big and small, arising in north-south relations, including the reunion of separated families and their relatives.

It is the unanimous wish of the army and people of the DPRK to open up a wide avenue for improving north-south relations by the concerted efforts of the Koreans.

We express the expectation that the south Korean authorities will respond positively to our principled crucial proposals.